

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

1) Please insert after the Title on page 1 the following paragraph:

This application is a national stage filing of PCT International Application No. PCT/EP/2004/005758 filed May 26, 2004 entitled "A MODIFIED BINDER POLYMER FOR COATING COMPOSITIONS" and now published with the International Publication No. WO 2004/108847. This application also claims the right of priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) to Great Britain Patent Applications No. 0312916.0 filed June 5, 2003 and 0329415.4 filed December 19, 2003. The disclosure of all of these applications is hereby incorporated in their entirety by reference.

2) Please replace the paragraph on page 19 starting at line 6 and ending at line 15 with the following paragraph:

Accordingly, the invention also provides a method for improving the opacity of coating compositions by employing a modified binder polymer as a binder polymer in a coating composition. Preferably the coating composition contains particulate non-film forming material and more preferably it is titanium dioxide, especially in the form of rutile.

The invention will now be illustrated by the following Examples of which Examples A to C [E] are comparative.